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Aunt Flow products have arrived! Jenny sorted through over 72 boxes that will now be making their way to the 10 member libraries that applied for mini-grants!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming FLLS Staff Out-of-Office: Sarah—8/4-8/22; Diana—7/30-7/31; Deb—7/28-8/4; Tom—7/28-8/1; Wayne—7/28-8/1, 8/11-8/22, Heidi—8/11-8/15, & 8/28-8/29.

★ ***Not sure who to contact? View the [FLLS Services Contacts Cheat Sheet!](#)***

LINKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

[It's Summerween! 31 Titles to Celebrate Halloween This Summer](#)

[Katherine Applegate Color Our World Writing Contest](#)

[Education Justice Project Reentry Guides](#)

[OCE Access for All: Writing Alt Text](#)

[Library Accessibility: Reflections on Room For Everyone](#)

[2025 Annual Conference Wrap-Up: Convening in the Cradle of Liberty](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I wanted to use my “From the Director” section this month to highlight my past 10 years of Finger Lakes Library System. On July 6, 2025, I celebrated my 10-year anniversary as the Executive Director of FLLS. Here are some of the highlights I am most proud of over the past 10 years:



FLLS Staffing – While we have had some retirements and departures of staff over the last 10 years, our FLLS staffing has remained stable and has allowed us to grow our services to help our member libraries. One of our most significant shifts of how our members use our consulting services is our growth in professional help with HR topics for our member libraries. From salary analysis, job description writing, policy review, and more, our members are using us in different ways since my leadership began. I came to FLLS with the idea that our staff would be meeting our members more at their libraries due to their hours and staffing levels, and it is still my goal with all of our members.

FLLS Services – One of my earliest system-wide projects was to establish the One Card, Many Libraries endeavor. Before 2016, library patrons had to have individual library cards throughout our system if they chose to take out materials at more than one library. With the One Card project, now users just need one library card that can be used at all of our libraries. Another service that is of importance to me is that currently 32 of our 33 libraries are fine free. This is something we as a system have worked very hard at achieving and we are almost there!

While the pandemic shifted our role and temporarily shuttered our libraries, the pandemic also showed that libraries continued to be a valuable and trusted source of community engagement. From pivoting to e-content purchasing, virtual programming and storytimes, to curbside pickup of library materials, we’ve helped our libraries expand services and outreach during those years that still continue today.

FLLS Building – Before I joined FLLS, I started my professional career at the Tompkins County Public Library, where I was a reference librarian, a readers’ advisory librarian focusing on fiction and programming, and the Head of Youth Services for my last 3 years there. When I joined TCPL in 1999, the Finger Lakes building had always been part of TCPL, either in the basement of the old TCPL building or at the back part of their current library. In 2014, FLLS bought our current headquarters and remodeled it and staff moved our building contents in January 2015. When I joined FLLS in July of that year, some of my first projects were finishing up the construction and hosting an open house in September 2015. Although we originally had a mortgage, due to financial security, we were able to pay our mortgage off early a few years ago. In July 2021, we welcomed the South Central Regional Library Council into our building as our tenant. Owning our own building has provided us with room to conduct our delivery services, host member library workshops and gatherings, and provide us with individual offices for our staff.

Being accessible, present and visible are strengths I feel I bring to the system and to our membership. Making sure that all of the FLLS staff and our libraries are being heard, valued and advocated for is something I strive for. Whether it’s being there for a quick morale boosting phone call or pep talk, or attending a meeting on behalf of the library, I feel my strength is being present and available to all 33 of our libraries if they need my help. These past 10 years have flown by and I hope that it is apparent to all our library staff, directors and trustees that I truly love my work at FLLS.

I’ll be on vacation August 4 – August 22 and back in the office August 25. I hope everyone has a fantastic August.

Sarah



MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Kellogg Free Library in Cincinnatus

"No medical emergency here at Kellogg Free Library, just a visit from the Cincinnatus Emergency Squad. Thank you very much to our local EMTs, Joan-Ann Lehman, Briann Lango, Mellisa Rice, Ethan Wakula and Jeffrey Rice for an outstanding Story Time. We appreciate all that you do for our community." ~Director Jaymie Closson





MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Hazard Library in Poplar Ridge

"Here are some pictures from today's Science on the Lawn. We used the nebula kits and added in a bunch of other things. I focused on physics of motion (see attached sheets that were on each table). I did have out the nebula pictures and posted up some of the information that was included in the kit." ~Director Lisa Semenza



Phillips Free Library in Homer

"The artist in residence at the Center for the Arts has an art display in our library (till tomorrow, July 15), and last night the public could come to watch his film and see the art lit by the special lights." ~Director Martsje Vanderschaaf-Riehlman

Local A2 — Cortland Standard, Friday, July 11, 2025

Nighttime film screening to be held at Phillips Free Library

HOMER — After two weeks as the Center for the Arts' artist in residence, multi-disciplinary artist Chaz Barracks will be showing his film and work at the Phillips Free Library Sunday night.

Barracks will discuss his work and time in Homer at a free event July 13. At 8 p.m., he will show his film "Everyday Black Matter" from 8:15-8:40 p.m., and have his gallery display open for a special evening viewing until 10 p.m. Light desserts will be served.

Barracks' multi-disciplinary artistry includes performance, photography, visual art, filmmaking and public exhibitions; exploring themes of Black queer aesthetics, placemaking and storytelling.

In "Everyday Black Matter," characters wear opulent, extravagant durags that are 6 to 8 feet long, as they tell their own stories about their everyday Black life.

"It celebrates the diversity of the wearer," Barracks said. "Durags have a completely different vibe based on who is wearing them, how they're being worn and how they celebrate this mundane innovation.

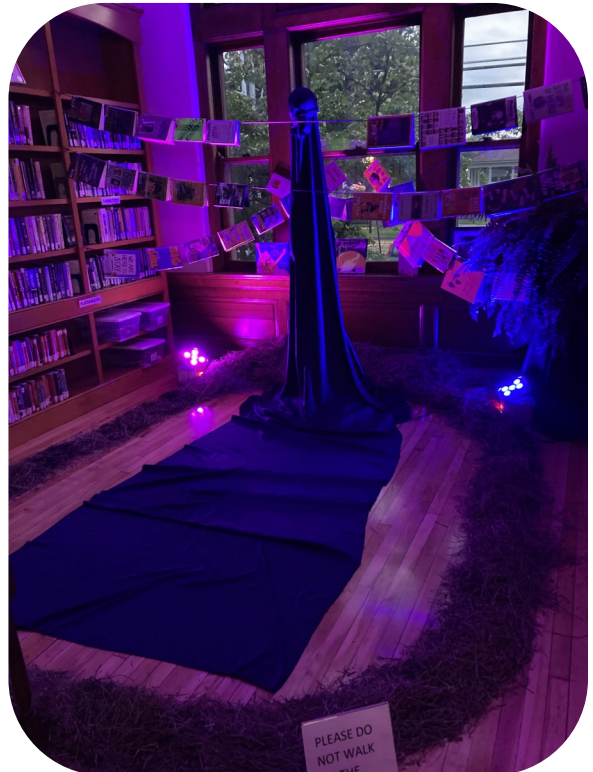
They're originally made to protect one's hairstyle, but because black folks are so innovative with style, the thing that is meant to protect your hairstyle becomes style in its own.

At the American Black Film Festival, the film was honored with Diversity Richmond's 2022 Black and Bold Award, which recognizes and celebrates leadership on behalf of the Black LGBTQ+ community.

For the past two weeks, one of Barracks' durags has been on display in the front window of the library, surrounded by books that follow similar themes to their work. Another durag is displayed on the balcony of the Center for the Arts theater.

Photo provided by Chaz Barracks

Books and a durag are on display at Phillips Free Library for the event.



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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Upcoming Webinars

[Know Your Rights Workshop with the New York Immigration Coalition, Part Two: Library FAQs \(NYSL/NYIC\)](#)

Friday, August 1 | 11:00am-12:00pm | FREE

Join us for part two of last month's virtual Know Your Rights (KYR) presentation. This follow up session will be a facilitated Q&A with the New York Immigration Coalition about libraries' specific role in protecting staff and patrons who may be vulnerable to immigration and law enforcement agencies. To prepare for the Q&A session, we are asking registrants to submit questions in advance of the discussion when registering. These questions will be prioritized during the New York Immigration Coalition's session. Please submit questions using the registration form. Please be aware that specific questions regarding legal immigration cases cannot be answered without a lawyer present. The FAQ discussion will focus on the general roles and responsibilities that library staff can take when interacting with immigration agencies.

[Introduction to Project Budgets \(Candid\)](#)

Tuesday August 19 | 2:00-3:30pm | FREE

Are you ready to write a grant proposal, but not sure how to create an effective budget? Worried that you'll need specialized skills or accounting expertise? Come learn the basic elements of how anyone can draft a project budget for a grant proposal with confidence.

[The Great Give Back \(STLS\)](#)

Tuesday, August 26 | 1:00-2:00pm | FREE

The mission of The Great Give Back is to provide a day of opportunities for the patrons of the Public Libraries of New York State to participate in meaningful, service-oriented experiences. Learn its history, hear example projects from around the state, and see how easy it is to become a part of the program!

Web Accessibility Workshop Series

In April 2024, the Department of Justice updated its regulations for Title II of the ADA. The rule has specific requirements to ensure that web content and mobile apps are accessible to people with disabilities:

[Fact Sheet: New Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments | ADA.gov](#)

It's not immediately clear how this rule impacts libraries. FLLS is part of a working group of library staff across the state discussing the new ADA Guidance on web accessibility and how to support our members in meeting these regulations.

The NYSL is hosting a [3 part webinar series](#) on the subject this fall if you'd like to learn more:

- **Session 1:** *Web Accessibility Overview* (Sept 18)
- **Session 2:** *Creating Accessible Documents* (Oct 16)
- **Session 3:** *Web Accessibility for Social Media and Multimedia Content* (Nov 13)

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PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

Libraries Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries

Libraries have been around forever and will continue to stand the test of time. Several of our member libraries are celebrating some big birthdays this year. *Congratulations!* Here's to many more years of serving your communities!

- ⇒ [Cortland Free Library](#): 100 years
 - ⇒ [Edith B. Ford Memorial Library](#) (Ovid): 125 years
 - ⇒ [Interlaken Public Library](#): 100 years
 - ⇒ [Powers Library](#) (Moravia): 145 years
 - ⇒ [Tompkins County Public Library](#): 25 years at their Green Street location
 - ⇒ [Waterloo Library and Historical Society](#): 150 years (Historical Society 1875; Library in 1830)
-

e-Content Extra! Spotlight on Some Digital Collection Resources

With so much content out there, it's easy to lose track of the wealth of resources we have access to. To help out, we'll be highlighting a few of these gems in each Bulletin. Read about July's featured resource below.

[Novel NY Peterson's Test and Career Prep](#)

*Provided by the New York State Library, **NOVELny** is an online virtual library connecting New Yorkers to 21st century information via libraries and library systems statewide. **NOVELny** is an electronic resource access project that enables libraries across New York State to give their communities online access to the full text of thousands of journals, newspapers and other references. New Yorkers accessing the databases through a library website or the **NOVELny** portal while in New York will be able to enter the databases via geoIP authentication (also referred to as geolocation) without entering a username/password or library card number.*

PLA's Project Outcome Sunsetting August 2025

(From PLA): Libraries have used Project Outcome's standardized surveys to demonstrate their effectiveness beyond patron attendance and anecdotal success stories. Libraries gathered patron feedback for grants-based projects, incentive programs, and strategic planning – thus turning better data into better libraries.

Beginning September 1, 2025, PLA will shift to support outcome measurement through a suite of resources that library staff will be able to customize to the needs of their libraries and communities. However, with this shift in support, **the online platform used to collect and archive survey data will be discontinued in August 2025.**

Libraries are encouraged to **retrieve their library's data by July 31, 2025**, before the site is sunset.

AWARDS & GRANTS



NYLA Awards: Nomination Deadline Extended!

The NYLA Awards nomination form is open through **Monday, August 18th!** Visit the [NYLA website](#) to nominate someone! Recipients must be NYLA members.

We know you have a co-worker or friend that deserves the recognition! We are seeking nominations for:

- **Mary Bobinski Innovative Public Library Director Award**
- **NYLA's Distinguished Achievement Award**
- **Librarian of the Year (Public)**

Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize for Public Libraries

Deadline: September 15, 2025

The Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize, developed in partnership between the Gerald M. Kline Family Foundation and *Library Journal*, was created in 2019 to recognize the public library as a vital community asset. "When libraries, civic entities, organizations, and the people they serve become close partners, their communities thrive." One winning library will receive \$250,000 in unfettered grant monies from the Gerald M. Kline Family Foundation and be profiled in the November issue of Library Journal and online. Honorable mentions may also be named. All U.S. Public Libraries are eligible for the prize. Three letters of support from community partners and/or civic leaders are required, with at least one from an elected official.

The winning library will be identified based on the degree of its impact on the community in the following key areas:

- Engagement with local government to support the service area's defined goals
- Engagement with the community to develop library services
- Community recognition
- Inclusive service that supports broad community interests
- Leadership development to perpetuate the library's organizational strength and dynamism
- Environmental sustainability and leadership in sustainable thinking
- Inventiveness as exemplified by one of the library's services which is particularly original, both strategically and tactically
- Resilience in the face of challenges

Please visit the [website](#) for the grant guidelines and a link to the online application form: <https://www.libraryjournal.com/page/jerry-kline-community-impact-prize-submission-guidelines>.

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